Media Release for immediate release

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**CHINA, US SEND POWERFUL SIGNAL TO GLOBAL CLIMATE TALKS**

(GLAND, Switzerland, 12 November, 2014) – Today’s announcement by the world’s two biggest carbon emitters – China and the US – of new emissions reduction targets sends a powerful political signal: There will be global action on climate change and a global UN climate agreement in 2015.

**WWF’s Global Climate and Energy Initiative leader Samantha Smith** says all governments must now step up the pace and scale of their commitments to the UN climate negotiations. “They could start at the G20 meeting this weekend, by announcing an end to the US$88 billion that each year goes to find more fossil fuels, the very things that are driving climate change,” she says.

“We have a year before the global climate negotiations in Paris, and that year just got off to a good start. But these new targets from China and the US must be seen as opening bids in the negotiations, rather than final numbers. Both climate science and equity require more action,” Smith says.

**WWF-China CEO Sze Ping LO** applauded China’s announcement to put a carbon peak and commit to exercise its right to develop within environmental limits. “Leaders from the major economies are responding to the people’s voices at the UN Climate Summit in New York and the latest climate science of the IPCC.  This should encourage all other major emitters and UNFCCCparties to announce their emissions reductions targets and finance commitments early next year.”

“Game on,” says **Lou Leonard, WWF-US vice president, climate change**. “The planet’s leading emitters have put the rest of the world on notice: It’s time to act. But while this is an historic step for the US and China, both countries need to push for the strongest goals possible to give the world a fighting chance to stay below 2°C of warming. In the case of the US, its earlier pledge to reach 30 per cent reductions by 2025 should be a benchmark for any final global climate agreement.”

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**Notes for Editors:**

1. UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/>
2. IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [www.ipcc.org](http://www.ipcc.org)

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**About WWF**

WWF is one of the world’s largest and most respected independent conservation organizations, with over 5 million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the Earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption. [**www.panda.org/news**](http://www.panda.org/news) for latest news and media resources.